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Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley on Paycheck Fairness Act

June 5th, 2012

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor Martin O'Malley today issued the following statement after the U.S. Senate failed to consider the Paycheck Fairness Act:

"It's unfortunate that some members of the U.S. Senate have chosen politics over our people – preventing America from moving forward, growing jobs, opportunity, and hope for a prosperous future."



"Over the last few decades, women's contribution to family finances has become increasingly important. In Maryland, women contribute nearly half to the family's income. Yet at the same time, women make 14.6 percent less than a man performing the same job – a statistic that reflects a similar disparity in many states across the nation. It's unfair and contrary to the foundations of our country that these members would block legislation that would give workers stronger tools to combat wage discrimination, prevent retaliation for discussing salary information, and help ensure more adequate compensation for victims of gender-based pay discrimination."

"I applaud Senator Barbara Mikulski for reintroducing the Paycheck Fairness Act. I commend the leaders in Congress who actually want to move America forward, protect our people, and make investments in our future."

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« [Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley on Sparrows Point](#)
[Governor O'Malley Makes Ceremonial First Call on "Maryland FiRST", New Statewide Interoperable Communications System](#) »

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Governor O'Malley Makes Ceremonial First Call on "Maryland FiRST", New Statewide Interoperable Communications System

June 5th, 2012

BALTIMORE, MD – Governor Martin O'Malley today, joined by Superintendent of the Maryland State Police Colonel Marcus Brown, Director of Maryland's Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee Ray Lehr, Executive Vice President of Sales and Field Operations for Motorola Solutions Mark Moon, and several other state and local officials, made the ceremonial first call on the Maryland First Responders Interoperable Radio System Team or "Maryland FiRST", the new statewide 700 MHz radio system.



"There is no more important work in our country today than the work of first responders. For the last 10 years, together, we have been pursuing – first in Baltimore, then in the State as a whole – 12 Core Capacities to improve homeland security," said Governor O'Malley. "The first in those 12 Capacities is having an interoperable communications system that works every day to connect the men and women on the front lines. Today has been a long time coming, and it's a significant step forward for connecting all of Maryland's first responders to enable them to share information and help us create a more resilient Maryland."

"Maryland FiRST" will provide statewide interoperable communications to connect Maryland's first responders on one secure radio system. Today, the ceremonial first call on the new radio system made by Governor O'Malley connected Maryland State Police at the JFK Highway Barrack in Cecil County, Maryland State Police Headquarters in Pikesville, the Maryland Transportation Authority Police at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and the Kent County Emergency Communications Center on the Eastern Shore of Maryland on one digital and secure radio system.



"This new statewide radio system will allow all of Maryland's public safety agencies to communicate more efficiently on the same system, which will ultimately enhance our mission of homeland security," said Colonel Marcus L. Brown, Superintendent of the Maryland State Police. "This new technology which makes instantaneous radio connectivity possible will provide emergency responders with even more tools to improve our state's emergency preparedness."

This first phase of Maryland FiRST will be fully operational by the end of 2012. The connection will cover central Maryland and Kent County, and key infrastructure patrolled by the Maryland Transportation Authority Police which includes: the I-95 corridor, BWI Airport, Port of Baltimore, the Inter County Connector (ICC), the Key Bridge, the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, the Harry Nice Bridge and both tunnels under the Baltimore harbor. The next phase will build-out the system on the Eastern Shore and be completed by the end of 2013. The entire Maryland FiRST system is anticipated to be complete by 2016.

Mark Moon, executive vice president of Sales and Field Operations, Motorola Solutions, Inc. added: "Helping our federal, state and local government customers achieve maximum interoperability is a high priority for Motorola Solutions. We are pleased to work with the state of Maryland to establish Maryland FiRST and create a fully digital and secure radio system that enables police and first responders to react quickly and effectively in emergencies. First responders will rely on Maryland FiRST to complete their missions, and Motorola is committed to providing the dependable communications they need."

[The O'Malley-Brown Administration continues to make steady progress to enhance Maryland's homeland security and emergency preparedness, including 12 Core Goals to build a better prepared Maryland.](#) To date, the Administration has begun building a historic Statewide Interoperable Public Safety Radio Communications System that will allow first responders to communicate seamlessly with partners in other agencies, across county lines, and between state and local agencies, all using the radios that they carry every day; helped create a shared network of more than 700 Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) camera feeds that provide real-time situational awareness of highway and roadway conditions for first responders in Maryland and the National Capitol Region; deployed more than 300 License Plate Readers across the State that enable law enforcement officers to track terrorist suspects as well as recover stolen vehicles; developed an online emergency mapping application (OSPREY) that provides real-time emergency data and information to first responders and the public; connected all 46 acute care hospitals in the state and more than 300 private retail pharmacies

to an electronic biosurveillance system that detects early indicators of virus outbreaks and public health threats; created a radar-based tracking system that monitors vessels movements across the Chesapeake Bay and nearby waterways and enables law enforcement officers to better protect critical maritime infrastructure and natural resources; and created an electronic health and medical information dashboard that brings multiple real-time data feeds, such as emergency room status and hospital resource availability, into a single online viewer available to all hospitals, EMS units, and other medical first responders.

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« [Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley on Paycheck Fairness Act Helping Maryland's Caribbean Community Succeed & Thrive](#) »

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Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley on the Passing of Former State Treasurer Richard Dixon

June 7th, 2012

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor Martin O'Malley today issued the following statement on the passing of former State Treasurer Richard Dixon, Maryland's first African-American Treasurer:

"I am saddened to hear of the passing of former State Treasurer Richard Dixon.

"A trailblazer among us, he became Maryland's first African-American Treasurer and the first Treasurer from the Western Maryland Delegation in the General Assembly. An outstanding business leader, State legislator, and State Treasurer, his belief in fiscal responsibility served the people of our State well. His service to our nation during the Vietnam War demonstrates his courage. And his commitment to public service will never be forgotten.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and loved ones at this time."

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[Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley on Baltimore's Declining Murder Rate](#) »

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Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley on Baltimore's Declining Murder Rate

June 11th, 2012

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor Martin O'Malley today issued the following statement on Baltimore's declining murder rate:

"I'd like to commend the men and women of the Baltimore City Police Department, the neighborhood leaders and citizens of Baltimore, Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Commissioner Fred Bealefeld, Baltimore City State's Attorney Gregg Bernstein, U.S. Attorney Rod Rosenstein, and all of Baltimore's first responders for making significant progress toward creating a safer City.

"Together, with our federal, state and local partners, we have worked to drive down crime in communities across the State. Thanks to our local law enforcement partners in the City, homicides have been driven down by 18 percent – the lowest level since 1977. Together, we have driven down non-fatal shootings of youth in the City by 67 percent from 2007 to 2011. And thanks to Baltimore's joint warrant initiative last summer, nearly 900 suspects have been taken off the streets.

"There is nothing more important that any of us do in government than protect the public's safety. Though this is a good step in the right direction, there is still more work to do as just one life lost to violent crime is one too many. Together, we can make Baltimore a safer and better place for our children."

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« [Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley on the Passing of Former State Treasurer Richard Dixon](#)
[Governor O'Malley Announces Design Funding for US 301/MD 304 Safety Project in Queen Anne's County](#) »

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Governor O'Malley Announces Design Funding for US 301/MD 304 Safety Project in Queen Anne's County

June 13th, 2012

Additional \$7.8 million committed to advance interchange design for heavily-traveled intersection in Centreville

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor Martin O'Malley today announced a \$7.8 million investment to complete the design of the US 301/MD 304 interchange in Centreville, Queen Anne's County. Today, a basic intersection is in place at what is one of the most heavily traveled stretches along the US 301 Corridor. With the construction of a grade-separated interchange, motorists will have a safer way to move across US 301 and along MD 304. Working in partnership with residents, local and state officials, the additional funds provide full funding for the design phase of the project.

"With this investment in the US 301/MD 304 interchange, we can keep our families and children safe as they travel to work, school and go about their daily lives," said Governor O'Malley. "Today, we move another step closer to separating local traffic from the truck and through traffic running on US 301 so that we can improve safety and better serve the needs of area residents. Together, we can work to improve this busy intersection."

As a primary upper shore route, US 301 carries 17,500 vehicles in this area each day, with a significant portion being large tractor trailers. This section of US 301 is projected to carry 32,000 motorists per day by 2030. Construction improvements will include an interchange with a loop ramp in the southwest corner of the intersection, and other safety enhancements such as bicycle-compatible shoulders in both directions. The total projected cost, still to be funded, of acquiring the necessary right-of-way and constructing the project is in excess of \$55 million. The US 301/MD 304 interchange has been identified as the top transportation priority for Queen Anne's County by elected officials.

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« [Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley on Baltimore's Declining Murder Rate Well-Positioned for Job Growth](#) »



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Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley on May Jobs Report

June 15th, 2012

U.S. Chamber of Commerce ranks Maryland #1 for Entrepreneurship and Innovation

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor Martin O'Malley today released the following statement on the U.S. Department of Labor's release of preliminary employment data for the month of May:

"This was a disappointing monthly report after what has been a solid steady year of job creation and recovery. After creating 35,600 net new jobs over the past 12 months, today, 30,800 more Marylanders are working than were at this time last year. This is the best May to May for job creation since before the Bush recession. For 24 months in a row, our monthly job growth has been higher than the previous years. Though Maryland's unemployment rate increased slightly, it still remains nearly 20 percent below the national average.

"This week, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce ranked Maryland #1 in the nation for entrepreneurship and innovation, and in the Top 5 states for economic performance – for the third year in a row. It is not by chance, but because of the choices we've made together to expand opportunity and invest in the skills, talents, innovation and education of our people so they can compete and win in the New Economy.

"Unfortunately, even as Maryland continues to recover from this economic downturn, some of our elected representatives in Washington no longer believe they were sent there to make the choices that will strengthen and grow the ranks of an upwardly-mobile middle class. Instead of promoting job growth and prosperity for the American people, some members in Congress have chosen to block the bipartisan, job-creating policies that can strengthen and grow our nation's economy – the American Jobs Act, the Surface Transportation Reauthorization proposal, incentives for clean energy and American independence from foreign oil, the Small Business Innovation Program, and the reauthorization of the Export Import Bank. Some may say that teachers, firefighters and police officers are not critical to our nation's workforce, but we believe that every job counts.

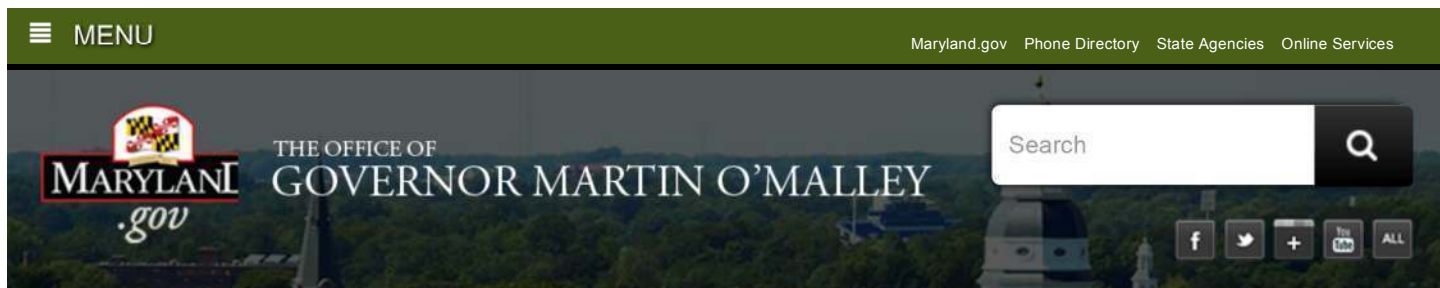
"A prosperous economy works for everyone, not just for a wealthy few, and a discourse that divides us will not help our nation's recovery."

For more information on the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's rankings for Maryland, [click here](#).

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Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley on Secretary Napolitano's Deferred Action Process for Young People

June 15th, 2012

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor Martin O'Malley today released the following statement on U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano's announcement of a deferred action process for young people who are low enforcement priorities:

"I am pleased that Secretary Napolitano has announced this very positive and important step for young people in our country who consider themselves Americans and deserve the opportunity to contribute to our country's future without the fear of enforcement action. This is the only nation that many of these young people have known, and they've worked hard to succeed here."

"I wholeheartedly support President Obama and Secretary Napolitano for taking this important action, which is a step in the right direction towards comprehensive immigration reform. I call on Maryland residents to build on this momentum by supporting our own DREAM Act to give our children a chance to gain the skills and education they need to compete and win in the future."

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« [Maryland is #1 State of Maryland Submits Customer Investment Fund Proposal](#) »

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State of Maryland Submits Customer Investment Fund Proposal

June 15th, 2012

Plan saves energy and creates jobs

ANNAPOLIS, MD – The State of Maryland today filed its proposal with the Public Service Commission for utilizing the \$113.5 million Customer Investment Fund provided by Exelon as a condition of the Commission's approval of its merger with Constellation, endorsing nine proposals that reach a broad array of customers within Baltimore Gas & Electric Company's service territory. Over a 10 year period, the State's proposal is projected to save over 2.2 million MWh of energy while creating or retaining over 1,550 jobs, avoiding the emission of 1.4 million metric tons of CO2 and saving BGE customers over \$278 million dollars. The proposed programs will also affect almost 27,000 families, over 12,000 small business and non-profit organizations, tens of thousands of teachers, students and parents, and over 200 Maryland manufacturers.

"The State's submission represents yet another example of how energy efficiency and conservation can create jobs while simultaneously saving Maryland families and businesses millions of dollars," said Governor Martin O'Malley. "These proposals, including the net zero schools, represent the future of our State and envision a time when all citizens will reside in safe, efficient homes, when our children are educated in buildings that are independent of the electrical grid, and when our businesses, non-profits and manufacturers routinely incorporate energy efficiency practices in their normal course of operations."

In crafting the proposals, the State focused on developing sustainable programs that leverage the Customer Investment Fund proceeds and ensure energy benefits for BGE customers for years to come. Sustainability efforts range from creating revolving loan accounts (approximately one-third of the proposals) to incentivizing energy conscious behavior. The State's proposal is also transformative; it seeks to address problems of high energy use and unhealthy homes among low-income families by providing enhanced weatherization services, as well as lead paint and mold abatement, along with education about energy efficiency to help create a healthier home environment and lower energy bills.

[Click here for the State's nine proposals.](#)

Each of the State's proposed programs would serve a multitude of BGE customers and offer significant incremental benefits in MWh saved, CO2 emissions avoided, the creation or retention of both direct and indirect jobs, and costs savings. [This table illustrates the key metrics associated with each of the proposed programs.](#)

The Commission will hold a hearing on the various parties' Customer Investment Fund proposals on August 7, 2012, and will ultimately decide how the \$113.5 million will be allocated.

This Commission's creation of the Customer investment Fund follows the State and the City of

Baltimore's settlement with Exelon, which resulted in a one billion investment in the State over the next decade, 285-300 MW of new energy generation, and more than 6,000 jobs.

###

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« [Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley on Secretary Napolitano's Deferred Action Process for Young People](#)
[200th Anniversary Ceremony: From Enemies to Allies](#) »

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200th Anniversary Ceremony: From Enemies to Allies

June 18th, 2012

Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine

Baltimore, MD

Thank you all very, very much. It is a great honor and a privilege to be with all of you on this 200th anniversary as we commemorate the War of 1812 and, in particular—with a little bit of hometown pride—the courageous and pivotal role, decisive role, that the people of Baltimore played in its outcome.

To Ambassador Doer, to Ambassador Westmacott, to Secretary Ray Mabus, to Tina Orcutt, their superintendent, to Senator Ben Cardin and also Senator Barbara Mikulski, Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, and Bob Schieffer. I thank all of you for your presence here today.

And it gives me pleasure to welcome –I understand Mrs. Hazel Manning, former First Lady of Trinidad, is with us somewhere today. Ms. Manning, I understand is a descendant of the Meriken community in Trinidad, which was settled by former slaves who left Maryland and the Chesapeake during the war.

And she recently participated in a collaborative project between the United States Embassy and the British and Canadian High Commissions, which documented the cultural heritage of the Meriken community.

And I also want to thank all of the members of the War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission. Chip Mason, who is with us, Senator Paul Sarbanes, also Mark Fetting with Legg Mason and all of our friends from Under Armour, Ballard Spahr, Gallagher Evelius and Jones, so many other people, including our sponsors, who've made this weekend such an outstanding kickoff.

On behalf of the people of Baltimore and the people of Maryland, we are honored as a City and a State to usher in this international bicentennial commemoration of the War of 1812. And very shortly, we will sign a declaration, appropriately, a declaration of peace, of our peoples coming together, as we have for the better part of our more than 200-year history together with our neighbors in Canada, our neighbors in Great Britain.

And I especially want to thank the commanders of nine other nations whose people sent their beautiful tall ships and crews to be a part of this commemoration and I would like to thank each of you.

We are kicking off what will be a two-year celebration. And I want to especially thank the United States Navy, Secretary Ray Mabus. We could not be more proud of our men and women of the United States Navy and Marine Corps. And the demonstration you have made here, with your personal involvement and commitment, has really been outstanding.

There are many moments I will remember spending time at this fort. Dutch Ruppersberger, Congressman Ruppersberger, Congressman John Sarbanes, who are with us, I think we share a love for this place.

One of the memories I will always cherish is looking over those ramparts and looking at that Star-Spangled Banner and seeing the United States Navy Blue Angels roaring over these ramparts. What an outstanding moment.

And in that crowd I'd never seen, Superintendent, so many people here at the Fort. Moms and dads, black and white, grandparents, little kids, it was really outstanding.

I'd like to make just two points. So much has been said, and said so eloquently, by the Ambassadors and by our Secretary.

From a Baltimore perspective and a Maryland perspective, there are a couple of lessons that we clearly see having emerged from this experience, from this sacrifice, from this conflict.

The most important one of which is that freedom is not free. It was not the federal government that paid for this Fort. It was the townspeople, the merchants, the business community of Baltimore that paid for our defense.

It was also a time that made us realize that we could not be a free nation, that freedom is not free, that the United States Navy is not some luxury that we can only afford when our coffers and pockets are completely filled. It is something essential for the liberty and the freedom of our country.

And, to paraphrase Robert Frost, I suppose, clear borders make good neighbors. As our Canadian neighbors also realized in that war, that freedom is not free.

The second point I wanted to make is this—and it is the very *e pluribus unum* nature of this defense. From many people, different people, came this defense. The defenders of Baltimore, Secretary Mabus, were, at least 50 percent of us were immigrants, or the sons and daughters of immigrants. In fact, 60 percent of the army garrison of 100 army soldiers stationed inside this fort were immigrants.

One out of five of the defenders of Baltimore, including some of the uniformed army soldiers inside that Fort, were African American citizens of a still as yet very imperfect country, who nonetheless saw the sort of great republic that their children and grandchildren might one day inherit and become a part of.

There were people like Will Williams, uniformed African American soldier inside that Fort, who died as a result of injuries sustained in the conflict. Across at Lazaretto point, you had the able Lieutenant Charles Ball of Joshua Barney's men. And that very flag itself, sewn together by Mary Pickersgill and her daughters, also sewing that flag with them was a thirteen-year-old black indentured servant named Grace Wisher.

This was very much an integrated defense. A Baltimore defense. From many different people came one great nation.

And the common thread that held those stars and stripes together, sewn together by black and white hands, defended by black and white lives, was the thread of human dignity. The dignity of home. The dignity of place. The dignity of neighbors helping and defending neighbors. The dignity of every individual.

This is our story. This is a story worthy of a great people. And this is the story that we will tell together and sing together in the years ahead. Thank you very, very much.

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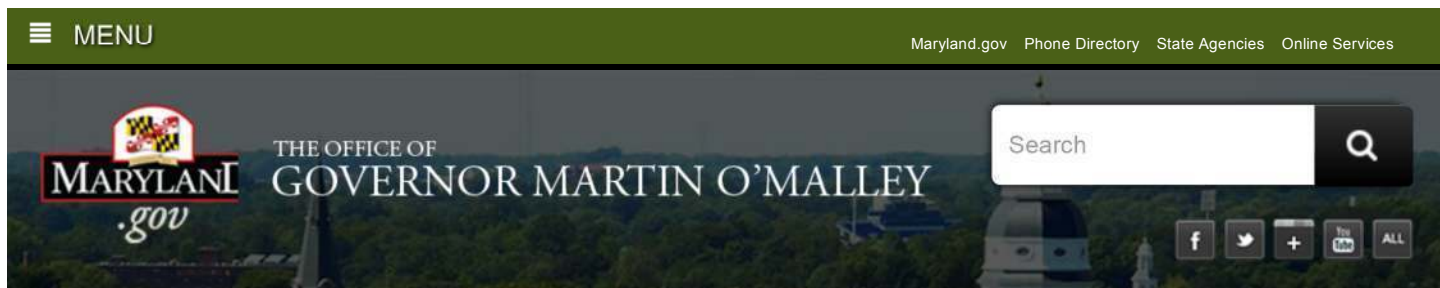
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Governor O'Malley Announces Danette Howard Secretary of the Maryland Higher Education Commission

June 21st, 2012

ANNAPOLIS, MD - Governor O'Malley today at the P-20 Council Meeting announced Dr. Danette Howard as Maryland's Secretary of Higher Education. She has served as Interim Secretary since August 2011.

"We are pleased that Danette has chosen to continue her outstanding work in our Administration," said Governor O'Malley. "Her dedication to creating innovative programs and years of expertise in higher education are essential to helping more Marylanders attend and complete college. We believe that under her leadership, we can build on the progress we've made to eliminate barriers to completion and help students obtain the skills and education they need to compete and win in the New Economy."

"I am grateful to be given the opportunity to continue to serve the people of Maryland as Secretary of Higher Education," said Dr. Howard. "I am looking forward to helping the Administration move toward its higher education attainment goal."

The O'Malley-Brown Administration has set an aggressive goal that at least 55 percent of adult Marylanders will hold at least one post-secondary degree or credential by 2025. Under Dr. Howard's leadership, the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) has launched a statewide reverse transfer program that will award credentials to community college transfer students who enroll at a four-year college or university just a few credits shy of earning their associate degrees. Dr. Howard also leads MHEC's efforts to redesign developmental education courses that are taught at Maryland's colleges and universities so that students can more quickly enroll in credit-bearing courses and earn their degrees. Additionally, the "Near Completers" program will help re-enroll students in good academic standing who left college campuses, but are less than a year away from earning their degrees.

Dr. Howard earned her Bachelor of the Arts degree, *summa cum laude*, from Howard University and her Master's in Administration, Planning and Social Policy from the Harvard University Graduate School of Education. She has also received her doctorate from the University of Maryland, College Park.

Dr. Howard has spent her entire professional career in higher education, first as a student affairs administrator at the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) then as a researcher and policy analyst at the University of Maryland College Park (UMCP). While pursuing her doctorate in Education Policy at UMCP, Dr. Howard worked on the Race, Equity and Diversity in the South Project, which examined trends in postsecondary enrollments and completion rates and faculty hiring and promotions. She also served as a key researcher in a multi-year project sponsored by the National Association of Black and Hispanic Physicists which studied factors that contributed to students of color succeeding in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines.

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Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley on the Work Group to Consider Gaming Expansion in Maryland

June 21st, 2012

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor Martin O'Malley today released the following statement on the work group to consider gaming expansion in Maryland:

"The Commission arrived at a consensus for moving forward to resolve issues around gambling in Maryland. For some reason, the House leadership at the last minute decided they did not want to share in that consensus. Finding common ground will be difficult if House leadership has become invested in the notion that the Anne Arundel site should enjoy a virtual monopoly for as long as possible."

"Over the next several days, I will continue to have conversations with Senate President Miller, House Speaker Busch, Chairman Morton, and County Executive Baker to resolve these lingering issues."

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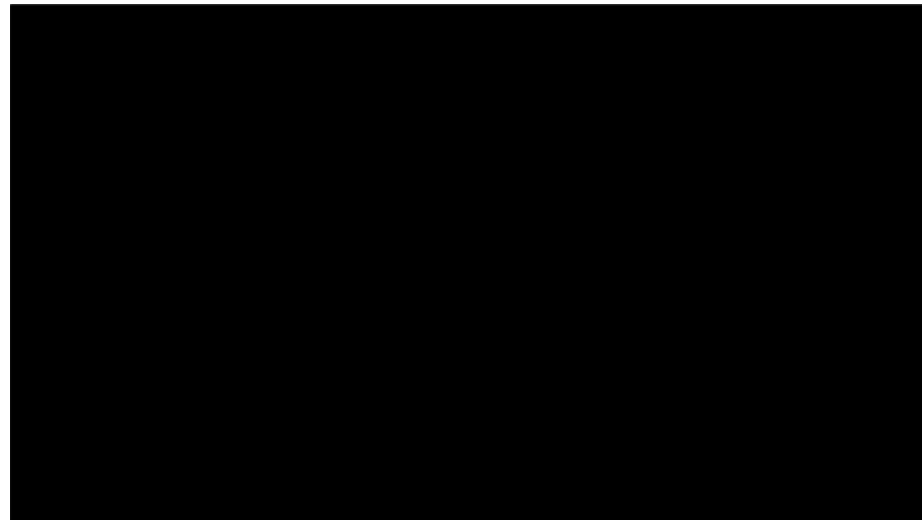
Job Creation is a Choice: Maryland Municipal League

June 26th, 2012

Ocean City, MD

As Prepared for Delivery

Thank you Mayor Bennett. Congratulations on a successful term at the helm of MML. Where is Mayor "J." Davis? Mayor, congratulations on your election as MML's new president.



This is the sixth year I've had the opportunity to join you here and congratulate your new officers. Each year, without fail, I look around this room and find myself feeling so grateful that I have the opportunity to serve with all of you. I wouldn't trade places with any other governor in America.

For all the challenges we face, just think of what our colleagues in others states would do to be #1 in education, #1 in innovation, and #1 in R&D. Think of what other states would trade to be in the Top 5 for economic performance, in the Top 2 for science and technology, and in the Top 3 in Kaufman's New Economy index. How many other states would like to be able to say they have the third lowest tax burden as a share of income? Or that despite this relatively low tax burden, their people have chosen to hold tuition increases to the lowest percentage in America?

What would other states trade to have a natural treasure like the Chesapeake Bay, with populations of Blue Crabs and Oysters that are rebounding thanks to your choices?

How many other states would like to be able to say that together with the hardworking men and women of law enforcement, they've been able to come together and drive violent crime and

homicide down to three decade lows?

Which of the 42 other states wouldn't trade places with the 8 of us which continue to defend our Triple A Bond ratings?

How many others states would like to be able to say that they've recovered 70% of the jobs lost during the Bush recession at a time when the nation as a whole has recovered 43%? What would other states give to be able to say that 30,800 more of their moms, dads, sons, and daughters are working today than a year before,... to have created more jobs over the last 12 months than during any corresponding period since the onset of the Bush recession?

How many other states would like to be able to say that their businesses started 2012 with the best quarter of new job creation since 1999?

Which of your colleagues in other states wouldn't want Maryland's world class workforce, powered by the resiliency, ingenuity, skills and education of your neighbors. Who wouldn't want to have a community of farmers who regularly set records in the numbers of cover crops they plant? Which state wouldn't want 61 federal facilities or world class assets like the University of Maryland, Morgan State University, Bowie State, and Maryland's great community colleges?

In Maryland we are blessed to represent a great people. A people who understand that progress is a choice. Job creation is a choice. Expanding opportunity, improving public education, protecting the public's safety, restoring the Bay, growing our economy, making college more affordable to more families, investing in innovation, rebuilding Maryland's roads, bridges, tunnels, school buildings, and waste water infrastructure, networking our State with 21st century broadband, restoring Maryland's Main Streets,... all these things are choices.

There is no progress without jobs – and there is no job creation without choices. Together, we've chosen to move forward with a balanced approach of record spending cuts, modern investment, regulatory reform, and yes – balanced revenues in the State where we pay the 9th lowest sales tax in America.

Tonight I want to talk with you about two choices: the choice to invest, and the choice not to invest.

Transportation Choices

Let's start with the choice not to invest – specifically the choice not to invest adequately in our roads, bridges, tunnels and other transportation infrastructure.

Because while we have chosen to invest in education – and while we have chosen to invest in innovation – we have not yet found the necessary consensus to invest adequately in transportation – and you feel it every day in your cities and towns.

I want to be able to help you by restoring HUR investments – and to do that, I need your help working with our colleagues in the General Assembly on transportation revenues.

Whether we choose to move forward by restoring HURs,... whether we choose to create thousands of new jobs,... or whether we choose to content ourselves with having the longest average daily commute in America,... these are choices we can only make together.

As you know better than most, inaction has a cost. It is the cost of being unable to do what we should on HURs. It is the cost of time lost sitting in traffic when we should be at home with our families. It is the cost of gasoline and money lost idling in bumper to bumper beltway traffic that looks a lot more like a parking lot than it does like a highway. It is the cost of lost productivity at work,...

It is the cost of 4,600 construction jobs we lost last month alone.

This year, even though we were unable to reach a consensus on needed, additional revenues, we nonetheless chose through our capital budget to support an estimated 52,000 jobs building and rebuilding modern schools, modern roads, modern transit, and modern clean water infrastructure. Just think of what we can do in terms of job creation and opportunity if we're able to come together on a transportation revenue package!

Choosing to Invest in our Cities & Towns

To create jobs, a modern economy requires modern investments; and some of these investments are public investments – investments by all of us, for the benefit of all of us. That's not a Democratic or a Republican idea; it's an economic and historic truth. It is an American truth. It was true for our parents, it was true for our grandparents, and it is the truth that has built our country.

We see the proof in cities and towns across Maryland,...

We see what it means to a community when we choose to invest through Safe Streets to help Mayor Ireton and law enforcement drive down violent crime in Salisbury nearly 47%,... or when we invest to help Mayor Cohen and law enforcement drive down violent crime nearly 61% in Annapolis.

We see the benefits of modern investment when we team with Mayor Grimm and entrepreneur Betsy Delozier ("Duh-LOW-Jur") to rehab an abandoned building for reuse as a solar-powered, neighborhood Laundromat in Cumberland.

Or when we team with Mayor Tartaro and entrepreneurs Julie Paez ("PIE-ehz") and Penney Jones-Napier to help Big Bad Woof expand to a second location in Hyattsville – and create 12 new jobs! For those of you unfamiliar with Big Bad Woof, they sell eco-friendly pet supplies, fair trade items and merchandise sourced from American companies. They are also the first "benefit corporation" recognized under our new law. What's a benefit corporation? It's a private enterprise in service of the public good.

We see what modern investments mean for a modern economy in the 110 jobs we supported during the rehabilitation of Union Mill in Baltimore City and in the 253 permanent jobs we're supporting – along with Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake – through a great project that offers affordable housing to teachers and 30,000 square feet of affordable office space for non-profits. These 253 jobs are some of the 15,000 jobs we're supporting together, through the Sustainable Communities Tax Credit.

We see a return on our modern investments in as many as 50 advanced manufacturing jobs we're helping Mayor Morrison and Vorbeck create in Pokomoke City.

And in the 60 Advanced Manufacturing jobs we're helping Mayor Dan Murphy and Evolve Composites create in Hancock. After the devastating loss of three plants in Hancock over the past two decades, Mayor Murphy teamed with Washington County and your state government to rehab the former Fleetwood Travel Trailers plant and attract Evolve Composites, company which manufactures 100% recyclable utility pads for HVAC units, pool pumps, and home use.

Finally, we get a return on our modern investments with every oyster served at Jimmie & Sooks Raw Bar in Cambridge – which just happens to be on the way home for many of us from Ocean City – just sayin.' In partnership with owner Amanda Bramble and Mayor Vickie Jackson-Staley, we used Be SMART Businesses Financing to help them expand to a larger space, upgrade to more energy efficient equipment, and,... drum roll please,... create and save 30 jobs!

Conclusion

There are stories like these in every part of our State. Stories which show us what we're able to accomplish together when we choose to invest in the people of our State. On the other

hand, there are plenty of stories which illustrate what happens when we don't. And there is plenty of time to retell them, while we're stuck in America's worst traffic congestion.

Our parents and grandparents didn't give us a car, they gave us a country. It's not a thing to be traded in when the carburetor gets old or its engine starts to knock. She is something to be treasured, loved, strengthened, and built up. It's not about what other countries are doing to us, it's about what we can and must do for ourselves.

And so, as we search for the good intentions of our neighbors, for common ground, and for the way forward, perhaps we should ask one another – without any anger, meanness, or fear — how much less do we think would be good for our State? How much less education would be good for our economy? How much less public safety? How many fewer college degrees would be good for our global competitiveness? How much less research and development would be good for Maryland's Innovation Economy? How many hungry kids can we no longer afford to feed

Progress is a choice. We can either make the tough choices necessary to invest in Maryland's future,... or we can be the first generation of Marylanders to give our children a lesser quality of life with fewer opportunities. The choice is ours.

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Governor Martin O'Malley Announces Opening of Vorbeck Manufacturing Facility in Pocomoke

June 27th, 2012

Company will create up to 50 new jobs Governor also announces designation of Pocomoke-Worcester County Enterprise Zone

POCOMOKE CITY, MD – During his speech to the Maryland Municipal League last evening, Governor Martin O'Malley announced that Vorbeck Materials Corp., a Howard County-based high technology company, has plans to purchase a State-owned building in Pocomoke City for their new manufacturing facility. The company, which is headquartered in Jessup and is considered a leader in developing graphene nanomaterials, also announced plans to create up to 50 new jobs at the new 42,000 square-foot Pocomoke facility within three years.

"It is exciting to see a cutting-edge, innovative company like Vorbeck creating high-quality manufacturing jobs on the Eastern Shore," said Governor O'Malley. "The U.S. Chamber of Commerce recently ranked Maryland number one for Entrepreneurship and Innovation because of our commitment to high-tech industries and our willingness to invest in the talents, skills, education and innovation of our people. We are pleased that Vorbeck has chosen to expand in Maryland – a reflection of our State's support for this growing high-tech industry and affirmation that we are a leader in the nation's innovation economy."

"Maryland has been a terrific location for us to start and grow our business," said Vorbeck Materials CEO John Lettow. "We are excited by this opportunity in Pocomoke City. Along with our headquarters in Howard County, we look forward to continued expansion and to creating new jobs in innovation and manufacturing in Maryland."

"The addition of this innovative company – and make no mistake, they are garnering national and international attention for their technological advances – is a key component in strengthening our community by securing skilled jobs for our workforce in the STEM field, making Worcester County, the State of Maryland and the nation overall viable entities on the world stage," said Worcester County Commission President James C. "Bud" Church said.

As part of the agreement, the State will provide incentive-based financing for the building that includes deferred payments and interest forgiveness if the company achieves the employment conditions. The company may also be eligible for other State assistance, including the One Maryland Tax Credit and the Job Creation Tax Credit, as well as county incentives. To date, Vorbeck has received \$650,000 in Enterprise equity investments and commitments from DBED.

The Governor also announced today that the Pocomoke-Worcester County Enterprise Zone has been designated. The designation will include an 845-acre zone that includes downtown Pocomoke, the Pocomoke Industrial Park, the riverfront industrial area and other parcels.

Several existing local companies, including Hardwire LLC, H&H Furniture Company, Aurora and Bel-Art, were attracted to the area because of the Enterprise Zone benefits. The designation is an important tool in attracting and retaining job, particularly in rural areas. Enterprise Zones enable jurisdictions to provide businesses located within the zones with income tax and property tax credits to help create and retain jobs. The latest data by the State Department of Assessment and Taxation shows that businesses in the State's Enterprise Zones received property tax credits totaling \$38.1 million in FY 2012, based on real property investments made by those businesses totaling more than \$3 billion.

The Department of Business and Economic Development approves the State's Enterprise Zones while local governments are responsible for their administration. Businesses operating within an Enterprise Zone may be eligible for a tax credit towards their state income tax filings based upon the number of new jobs created, and a tax credit on their local real property taxes based upon their overall capital investment into a property.

Founded in 2006, Vorbeck has exclusive license on patented graphene technology from Princeton University and developed the world's first commercial graphene product Vor-inktm. Earlier this year, Vorbeck was named as one of "America's Next Top Energy Innovators" by the U.S. Department of Energy and this month, the company was recognized by R&D Magazine for developing one of the 100 most significant scientific and technological products or advances of the year – the commercialization of graphene technology which enables greater use of electric vehicles and faster charging consumer electronics.

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Joint Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley and Lt. Governor Anthony Brown on U.S. Supreme Court Ruling on Affordable Care Act

June 28th, 2012

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor Martin O'Malley and Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown today released the following statement on the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling on the Affordable Care Act:

"President Obama and Congress chose to pass the Affordable Care Act because the status quo was hurting our ability to create jobs, expand opportunity, and protect the health of our children and parents.

"In upholding the Affordable Care Act, the U.S. Supreme Court chose to protect the lives of millions of Marylanders and millions of Americans. American businesses will be more competitive in the global economy with lower health care costs and a healthier workforce. Parents will be able to keep their children on their health care plans until age 26. Seniors will avoid the Medicare Donut Hole. And by 2014, no American will be denied health care coverage because of a pre-existing condition.

"Today's decision gives considerable momentum to our health care reform efforts here in Maryland. What it does not – and indeed must not – do, is give us license to take our eye off the ball or slow our progress. Moms, dads, and kids throughout Maryland are counting on their elected leaders to continue the mission of lowering costs, and improving the quality of care.

"We remain as committed as ever to moving forward on behalf of our families. We must move forward, not back."

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Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley on Passage of Federal Transportation Funding Legislation

June 29th, 2012

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor Martin O'Malley today released the following statement on the passage of the MAP-21 bill – legislation that will sustain thousands of jobs and transportation investment in Maryland:

"Working together, members of Congress today took an important step forward – for our country and our state. With the passage of this \$105 billion bill, states now have the stability they need to plan and execute their transportation programs for the next two years.

"While the duration of this legislation is shorter than we would have liked, the commitment of federal dollars provides us with a critical path forward. Funding levels under MAP-21 remain roughly the same as they have been in recent years, allowing us to continue projects already underway, consider some modest project additions later this year and protect nearly 10,000 transportation jobs.

"However, we still face the formidable challenge of finding new sources of increasing transportation funding so that Maryland, and other states around the nation, can invest in the sorely needed new infrastructure to expand transit, reduce congestion and most importantly, create jobs. To create jobs, a modern economy requires modern investments; investments in greater opportunities for our citizens, and investments in a better quality of life for Maryland.

"I applaud the efforts of Maryland's Congressional Delegation who have worked so hard to secure the federal dollars we need to make progress. Together, we will continue to work at the state and federal level to maximize the opportunities created by MAP-21 while searching for ways to increase investment in our transportation infrastructure in the future."

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